

University of Alaska Southeast

The Whalesong

Volume 22, Issue 11

April 3, 2001

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Work, play, and danger in Mexico: contest runner-up

Spring break in Guaymas, Mexico was something I had looked forward to since January 11, 2001. That's the day Timi Tullis stood up during college orientation and announced plans for an alternative Spring break doing mission work in Guaymas (pronounced 'why-mas'). My face lit up as she explained how a small group would travel to Mexico and work with the community to build adobe bricks for much needed homes. I couldn't think of a better way to spend Spring break! Doing something good for people and going Mexico! I spoke with Timi that afternoon and got the ball rolling. The countdown started.

There were five of us from the University of Alaska Southeast, Tom from Ketchikan, Tim and Andrew from Sitka, Timi and I from Juneau. Stepping off the plane under a dry, clear blue sky with 80 degrees of sunshine was quite a treat. It took all of two minutes for me to wish I could speak Spanish. (Mental note to self - install my 'Learning to Speak Spanish' computer program as soon as I get home.)

After a bit of a drive and absorbing the foreign surroundings, we arrived at the main casa. We were introduced to a handful of people we would be working with. Some live in Guaymas and devote their life to providing the daily necessities like food, clothing, and shelter to anyone in the community who needs

continued on p.7

Student Regent Josh Horst honored

Tyler Bishop
Whalesong Staff

UAS is about to lose one of its strongest voices. UAS has had the luxury of having the past two student regents, Annette Nelson-Wright and Josh Horst. Horst is finishing up his last year on the board and his ideas will be missed. He has had a clear and loud voice in helping set policies that favor UAS. His time on the board has been instrumental in getting extra funding for UAS. His contribution to the University of Alaska has been tremendous.

The Board of Regents is made up of 11 voting members, 10 of them are community representatives whose terms last for eight years, and one student member whose term lasts for two years. The student member has full voting rights and participates in executive sessions. The Board of Regents sets policy and oversees finances for the University, which serves 31,000 students and 6,500 employees.

Horst first got involved in student government in 1998 when he was elected student body president on the Juneau campus. As student body president Josh helped develop the Student Activity Center into what it is now. He also co-developed the new student ambassador program. After finishing his term as student body president he pursued becoming student regent.

He first had to be nominated by UAS students. Then he went through a series of telephone interviews with Gov. Tony Knowles. When Horst was going through the confirmation process with the House and Senate, he received opposition led by Sen. Pete Kelly of

Fairbanks. In Kelly's Senate H.E.S.S committee, Horst was questioned about the UA Lands bill and expressed some concern about the measure, which grants 250,000 acres of state land to the University as a money-raising endowment. Apparently, it was hard

for Senator Kelly to fathom having a student regent with views different from his own but Horst was appointed despite Kelly's objections. Lawmakers from both parties responded by praising Horst's leadership skills and willingness to consider other people's ideas.

The Board of Regent recently honored Horst for the two-year term that he has served. This was a very special occasion; his mom and step-dad flew in from California and his dad and step-mom came up from Canada. Horst recognized his parents as major contributors to his success. The reception was open to the public and was held in the Treadwell Room of the Baranof Hotel on March 8. There were many state Representatives on hand as well as

numerous friends and colleagues.

The presence that Horst has brought to the Board will as well as to student government will be missed. During the past two years Horst has been the chair and spokesperson for the Coalition of Student Leaders, and also the coordinator for the Student Legislative Lobbying Campaign. Horst has been very active in making the University of Alaska a better facility, but this is not the end of it, as he explained. "We should look at this as though he is being transferred to the alumni department and not that his term on the board is ending."

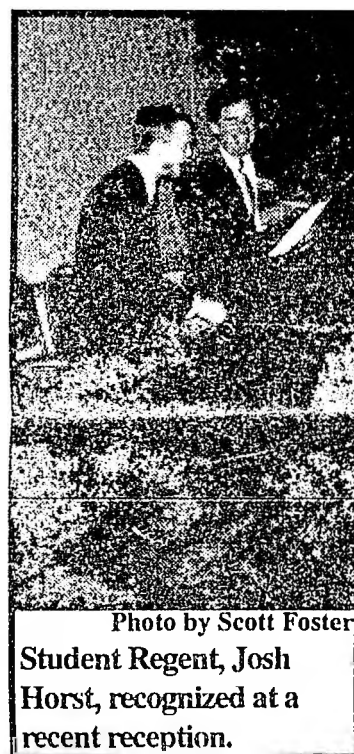


Photo by Scott Foster
Student Regent, Josh Horst, recognized at a recent reception.

Humanities conference focuses on human rights

Scott Foster

UAS Information Services

A journalist from Zimbabwe who was jailed and tortured for a story he published will be the keynote speaker at the University of Alaska Southeast Humanities Conference April 6 and 7.

Ray Choto speaks at 7 p.m. Friday in Egan Library about "The Media, Democracy and Human Rights in Zimbabwe." A discussion will follow his presentation.

The conference will focus on human rights. It is open to the public. "Our goal is to bring the community together with our students to discuss

issues relevant to human rights," according to Dr. Sue Koester, one of the conference organizers.

A human rights panel will be held Saturday, April 7 starting at 9 p.m. in Egan Library. Mario Tafur, Rosalie Walker, Andrew Hope, Dixie Belcher, Ray Choto and Peter Dubois will talk about their work in human rights. "We're going to draw upon the work of these activists and reflect about the work of others," Koester said. The panel discussion will be followed by sessions to consider the writings of international human rights activists.

"I see this conference as a consciousness

raising event," Koester said. "It certainly has been that way for me. We're raising the consciousness of participants, students and the community."

The Humanities Conference is sponsored by UAS, Amnesty International, and the Juneau World Affairs Council.

Related Amnesty International activities April 7 include a workshop at 2 p.m. on the UAS campus and a presentation by Ken Wiwa at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Temple. He will discuss and read from his book, "In the Shadow of A Saint: A Son's Journey to Understand the Legacy of His Father."

For information contact Dr. Sue Koester, 465-6422

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Apr. 2001

Activists, Democrats double-team Bush on environment

Michael Kilian
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON - In the two months since he took office, President Bush has reversed some of the major environmental policies of the Clinton administration, moving to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, blocking a ban on new roads in National Forest land and revoking plans to reduce the amount of arsenic in drinking water.

The President also backed away from his campaign promise to curb carbon dioxide emissions, angering environmentalists, embarrassing his own EPA chief and risking a political backlash from independent-minded voters who consider the environment a priority.

On Wednesday, as the White House confirmed it would ignore the 1997 Kyoto treaty to fight global warming, environmental groups struck back, teaming with Democratic congressional leaders to launch a crusade against what they regard as an all-out Bush administration assault on the environment and clean air and water protection standards.

In effect, they drew battle lines for what is expected to be one of the major issues of next year's election fight for control of Congress.

At a rally on Capitol Hill, the President's critics said Bush is unilaterally taking action "behind closed doors" to undo by fiat environmental measures put in place after years of bipartisan effort and public hearings.

Democrats and environmentalists expressed dismay that the White House would reverse policies and protections that polls indicate are extremely popular with voters and that were, in part, put in place by Republican Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, and George Bush, the President's father.

Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center, said polls indicate that Bush is running a political risk, especially among middle-class voters.

"That group is strong environmentally," he said. "He's taking some political risks, or just decided to get a lot of bad news out early, hoping

that people forget by mid-term election time. None of this would seem to be meant to garner the support of swing voters, suburban or otherwise."

Kohut cited one Pew poll that showed Americans favoring U.S. participation in the Kyoto global warming agreement by a margin of 55 percent to 41 percent.

The Democrats consider it a big issue in their favor. "In just two short months, the President has launched a blistering attack on environmental regulations that affect the lives of millions of people in our country," said House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., speaking at the rally. "He has decided to block rules that protect millions of acres of National Forest from development. He has broken his campaign promise on global warming and blocked new carbon dioxide emissions standards. And he has relaxed restrictions on arsenic in our drinking water."

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., said they have begun investigations into what influence corporate special interests may have had in Bush's environmental decisions, and they questioned the legality of his negating official rules without public comment or hearing.

At a White House briefing, Press Secretary Ari Fleischer argued that critics were looking at only a portion of Bush's environmental policies and actions. Fleischer said

Bush believes he is taking a balanced approach to environmental issues, and that critics are ignoring the positive actions he has taken.

"The President has also taken actions on diesel fuel trucks which were hailed by the environmental community," Fleischer said, referring to Bush's decision to embrace a Clinton order cutting sulfur in diesel fuel. "The President's position on National Monuments which were designated by the previous administration, leaving those National Monument designations in place, has also been hailed by the environmental

continued on page 3



Bush continued from page 2

community. And the President is finding balance in his environmental policies and he is doing exactly what he said he would do as a candidate."

Fleischer said that though Bush backed away from his campaign promise to reduce carbon dioxide emissions he is doing more to restrict sulfur dioxide, mercury, and nitrogen oxide emissions than President Clinton did or Vice President Gore proposed.

Among the groups represented at the Capitol Hill rally were the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the National Parks and Conservation Association, the Heritage Forest Campaign, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Mineral Policy Center.

Besides their other complaints, the groups said the administration also has:

Held for reconsideration a rule banning new roads and logging in some 60 million acres of publicly owned U.S. National Forest. Forest Service chief Mike Dombeck resigned Tuesday because of differences with the administration over the "roadless" policy and other issues.

Refused a congressional mandate contained in the Clean Air Act to write stronger rules restricting PCBs and two other pollutants in the Great Lakes eco-system.

Suspended new federal government powers to prohibit new hard-rock mining sites on federal land and curb the flow of mining contaminants into streams and other water systems.

Suspended a requirement that miners of gold, silver, uranium, lead, copper, and zinc on federal land post a bond guaranteeing clean-ups of hazardous waste and other pollution.

Held for reconsideration a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks.

Delayed for at least 75 days imposition of a new rule curbing water pollution by cattle feed lots.

The groups argued that by stalling on the issue of placing roads in National Forests, Bush was acting by executive fiat to undo rules that took two years, 600 public hearings and 1.6 million public comments to formulate.

Kevin Collins, director of park recreation for the National Parks and Conservation Association, said the Yellowstone snowmobile ban was the result of 22 public hearings and 64,000 public comments, most of them favoring the ban.

"My town of Cooke City on the edge of Yellowstone has a population of 100 and every winter is invaded by 37,000 snowmobilers," said Yellowstone wildlife guide Betsy Robinson, who traveled to Washington for the rally. "West Yellowstone, with 2,000 people, gets 75,000. Just three weeks ago, I was near Old Faithful, standing along the banks of the Firehole River and watching a geyser erupt, when I suddenly realized that I couldn't hear the splashing of the geyser over the roar of snowmobiles on the road a half-mile away."

STARTING EARLY PAYS OFF

Investor #1	Investor #2
Amount Invested	Amount Invested
\$2,000	21
2,000	22
2,000	23
2,000	24
2,000	25
2,000	26
2,000	27
2,000	28
2,000	29
2,000	30
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0	60
0	61
0	62
0	63
0	64
0	65

\$20,000 Total \$70,000
Invested
\$462,643 Value of \$372,204
IRA at Age 65

Courtesy
of
USAA
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Investing for retirement NOW!

Summer J. Dorr Murray
Whalesong Staff

We are all at college to find our path in the world, to accumulate the knowledge to prepare us for jobs in our desired fields. Presently we're stressing about fitting a part-time job in with our full-course school schedule, worried about student loans piling up and wondering if this is all going to pay off in the end.

Why are we doing this to ourselves, working temporary jobs to pay for classes we need in order to get future jobs? The workload we are putting upon ourselves is for FUTURE gratification, hoping to eventually earn that 5-6 figure salary. Well maybe we should look even further into the coming years for the real profit, retirement.

I know what you're thinking, "retirement at my age?" We are investing already, in a college education, but what about after we've accomplished our goals, once you've received the corner office or what have you? Will you have a

million-dollar retirement account waiting to be cashed in? If you have an IRA growing, that is a definite possibility.

IRAs are individual retirement accounts you begin whenever you start earning income. You invest up to \$2000 a year until you retire and then pull out an additional fortune. The monthly deposits should be put in and forgotten.

You CAN afford this profitable investment opportunity. My suggestion to afford the \$2000-a-year plan for retirement is cut back on the \$5 dollar extra value meals at Mickey D's and three mochas a day, and perhaps crack open a textbook instead of heading to Blockbuster each night for a new release.

The younger we start the less we need to invest and the more our money calf will fatten up. As you can tell by the graph, it shows the sooner we begin the less we have to invest and the more we invest the more our hard-earned cash racks up interest.

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The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, The Whalesong, is a free bi-weekly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of The Whalesong values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. The Whalesong editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

My swan song

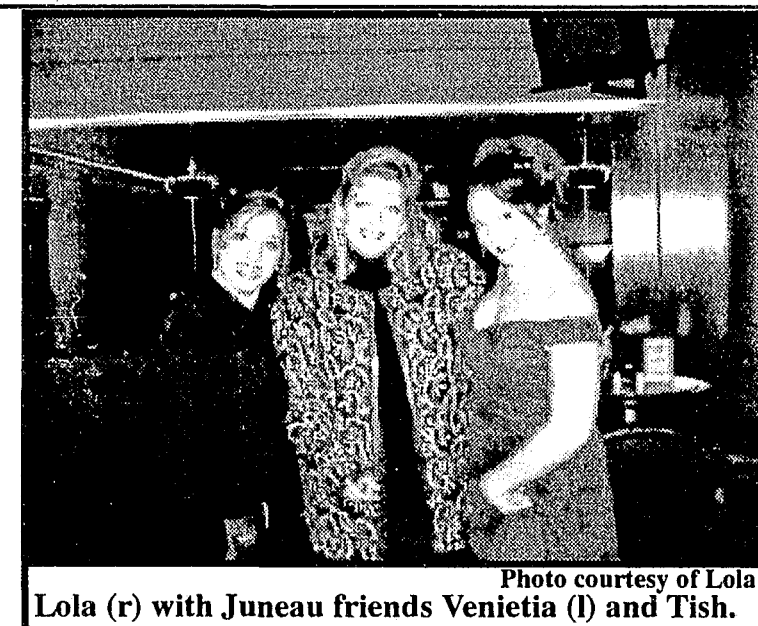
Lola Savagty
Whalesong Contributor

It has begun. The countdown to the day I thought would never come. This is my swan song to my undergraduate degree. Weeks now and I will have made it...I hope. With my usual "gotta do as much as I can" attitude, I have decided that the last four weeks of my undergraduate career should be as hard as possible. I accepted a position at the University, which I rush to after my workout in the morning, work at least three hours and I am downtown by 10:30 to complete my internship hours until 6:30 p.m. If I am lucky enough to not have class, I usually get home by 8:00 in time to start my homework, or reading or paper writing (or TV watching). I can barely remember my husband's name, poor man. However, I digress.

I am graduating. (As long as I pass the Internship class and my ethics class - hint hint Professor Krein and Professor Thomas). I will be walking down the aisle with my friends and classmates, who have lived through the classes, homework, exams, quizzes, lectures, hours of reading, studying and praying. I recall at one point giving up, which is why it has taken me so long. I have my husband David to thank for getting me back on track, and reminding me how important this is. I have my parents to thank for starting me on the collegiate track, and my grandmother for setting a good example and being a college graduate back when there were only a few women even trying to go to college. I recall attending graduation ceremonies for my aunt and uncle who continued their own education, showing me that I could do it if they could. My sister of course had to show me up and get her certificate in a short 18 months, just to add a little fuel to my fire; she made me know I could do it. The list goes on and on. As I am sure everyone's does who will don a cap and gown.

I am glad I am ending this part of my college career here in Alaska, in a school that has made me work to my full potential, and provided me a place to work during, and now after, I complete my degree. I came to Juneau a crazy city girl, and while you can't take the city outta the girl, you sure can help her adjust well. And everyone did. I remember calling Tish Griffin only 3 days after I arrived here, and I by the time I got off the phone I knew I had at least one friend here (not to mention a job). The list multiplied as I started classes. I threw myself down in the chair next to a person named Venetia Santana and said, "I am new here, I have no friends....wanna be my friend?" And she did, and she is. (A really good friend who picked me up off the floor when I was drooling, crying, and unable to move after my accident). She's seen me at my worst and still stuck around; we all need friends like that. She (knowing everyone) introduced me around, and within a month my social calendar was filled.

I like the people here in Juneau, especially the UAS ones. I could not escape Suzan and Tia, Heather and Jeannette, Seneca and Kim, Shannon and Julie, Iris and Roxy, Teri and Timi, Lori and Dave; like a magnet I was drawn to people who really cared about me. Let's not forget all the boys that I flirt with, and you all know who you are,

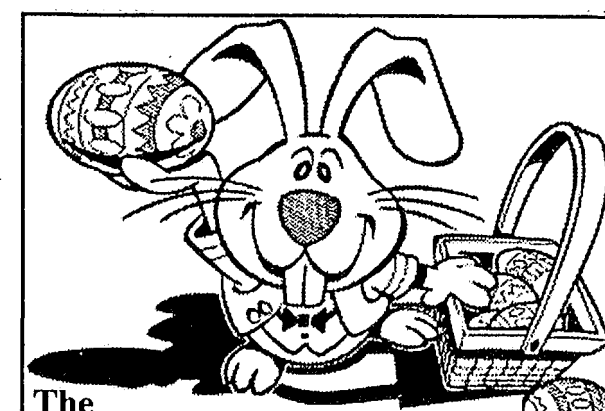


Lola (r) with Juneau friends Venetia (l) and Tish.

but since I am married I will refrain from naming names. There is of course the professors who tormented me but made me strong as well, Walz and Theno, Mülle and Andree, Krein and Blitz, just to name a few. I have to admit I like having you as professors, but I will be glad when I can say you are now just my friends! I could go on and on with the people I love here, and the friends that I have made, but it would fill the whole paper.

Only in this state could I have been able to work for the legislature (thousands apply for the internship program in California). Only here could I walk from the mountains to the beach in a matter of minutes. Only in Juneau could I feel comfortable enough to dress like a cheerleader and scream for my friends (OK lets face it, I would do that anywhere). At this university I was comfortable enough to dress like Vanna White and play game shows with the Dean of Students (thanks Bruce). I also could not believe how accessible the Chancellor and the rest of administration were. In other universities I attended, I don't think I even knew who the Chancellor was, let alone meet him or the President of the University, who I met the first week of school (stunned!).

So I say with all honesty, and as clearly as someone with as crazy a mind as mine can, I am glad to be a University of Alaska Southeast Alumni (don't forget to join - look Lynne I am doing my job) and I will miss all of you. What am I thinking...I will see you all since I will be working here, as well as getting my master's degree. Oh, well anyway, it's been fun to share life, laughs, and craziness with you all. I appreciate your willingness to even read this (if you are) and hope that when you graduate you feel as complete as I do.



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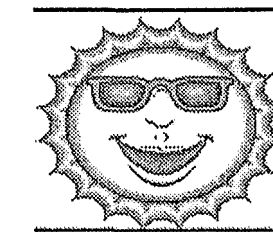
CORRECTIONS

Regarding the letter to President Hamilton printed in the March 6, 2001 issue, it should be noted that the author did not explicitly request the letter be printed here, in full.

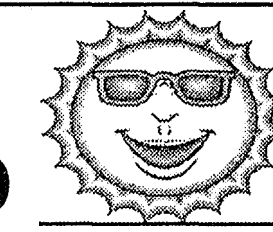
Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

FEATURES



Spring Break Story Contest Winner One vacation in squalor, coming up



I was still half snoozing the morning Gab dropped the Mexican vacation idea on me. It was one of those abysmally crappy February days, and she was putting on her socks, getting ready for work. "Honey...how about we go to Mexico for your spring break." It was a statement, not a question. And that's exactly what we did, after a flurry of planning and dreaming, and hours spent on the internet. Gab did most of the research legwork,



Kim and Gab enjoying drinks and Mexican seafood while being bitten by mosquitos.

locating houses and hotels and writing to likely prospects. This activity was not without some element of drama, however. We had chosen Zihuatanejo as our primary destination, but Gab liked the idea of spending some time in the more remote location of Barra de Potosi, a small fishing village about 10 miles south of the airport. We sent a note to a hotel middleman of sort, which covered the basics, such as how difficult would it be to get to town? and what were the area restaurants like? She wrote us back a snot-o-gram, suggesting that we didn't know what we were getting ourselves into. We ended up renting a different place, and thanked the original broker for her help. Upon her rather terse email response, we told her where we had selected. To our amazement she sent a note saying, "I guess you didn't read the article on my website. Don't get on the wrong side of Juan (our hotel's owner), he's certainly capable of murder." Gab replied that it struck her as a bit unprofessional to be casting aspersions on fellow hotel brokers, to which the woman replied, "It is never unprofessional to cry out for justice! My people died at Auschwitz!" Okay, can't argue with that.

Our travel plans set, we left for our overnight in Seattle, where we had chosen the Travelodge (also known as Squalor South). Expedia.com had confirmed our reservation and billed the credit card, but of course no one working there had ever heard of us. Luckily, room 214 was available. To get to

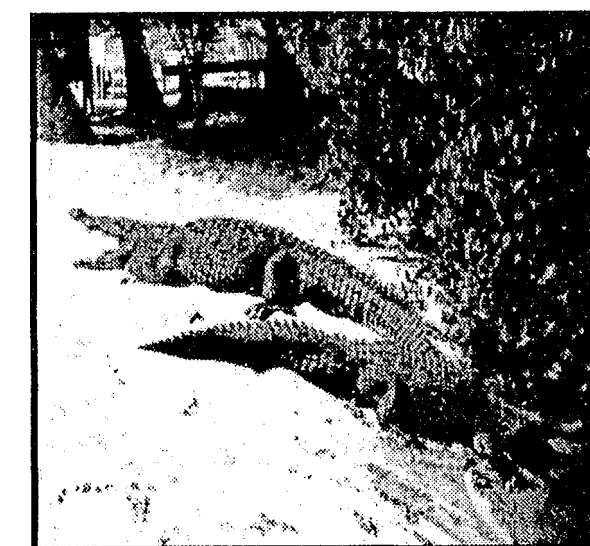
room 214 you have to haul your bags up the staircase next to the highway, then trek down a long outdoor hallway, past the room with the naked man standing in the window. At least half of the light bulbs were burned out, but hey, the price is right!

Once we arrived in Mexico, we dusted off our Spanish skills, grabbed a cab, were assured by the driver that he could find our rental house, and set off through coconut plantations and beach roads for Barra.

Two hours later we were still looking. Our driver asked for directions approximately every 50 feet, but no one had heard of our place. FINALLY, we found a guy who had been working at the house (the owners had told us there was "a little construction" going

on, hence the \$10/night discount from their regular price), and he led us to our new temporary home. Okay, here's a little exercise: what does "a little construction" mean to you? Well, in this case it meant building an entire new house, directly in front of our rental house. We opened the front window shutters to reveal a lovely cement wall. Where was the "beach front"? In front of the NEW house. Ah, the hazards of internet booking...

But we were determined to enjoy it. As it was well past 6:30, we went in search of dinner. First we tried the hotel next door, which had a sign boasting a restaurant AND a bar. We were quickly ushered out with protestations that indeed they did NOT



Crocodiles roamed the grounds around their hotel in Zihuatanejo.

have these things. We got directions for a place down the beach, and trudged through the sand to a rickety outdoor eatery, with plastic tables and chairs in the sand. As the stars came out, so did the mosquitoes. They were voracious, frantically seeking our fresh Alaskan flesh. We were bitten unmercifully by every bug known to woman that night to the extent that we left Barra with no fewer than 50 bites a piece.

Our first full day was a beach day, or at least it began that way. After lathering up with SPF 30, we stumbled through our own personal construction site (complete with concrete chunks and rusty wires) and took a walk down the empty 15-mile strand. Diving

continued on p. 6

South Pacific Dance

Saturday, April 7 • 9:00 pm-1:00 am • SAC
Food • Prizes • DJ Justin McDonald from the UAS Tiki Hut
 Free for members • \$5 for non-members • Sponsored by UAS Student Activities

Dress for the beach!

Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions of art, photography, written work, and personal experiences are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste, and must include a name and means of contact for verification. If the submission is to be returned, please include an address and daytime phone number. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

Zihua continued from p.5

pelicans were our companions as we sampled the surf. Eventually the heat started to get to us, and when we returned to the house we discovered that SPF 30 doesn't really protect one's tender skin for very long. We siestad for a couple hours, then set off to try another seafood restaurant. Daylight revealed about 15 restaurants, all in a row on the edge of the lagoon. This afternoon's choice came with the scenic vista of Mexican families picnicking, people fishing with nets in the waves, and children peeing in the restaurant next door. Gringos were few, and this was really the best part.

We were eager to visit the city, so Monday morning at about 10:00 we strolled to the center of town and asked a guy in the corner snack bar when the bus to Zihua would come. "Oh, 20 minutes, not more". At 11:00 we boarded a camioneta (an antiquated truck with the bed sides converted to a "troop carrier" style). The ride was beautiful, a winding dirt road took us through endless coconut plantations, and there were lakes, goat farmers, and micro towns along the way. It took about 30 minutes to get to Achotes, where we took our life in our hands crossing the highway, and hailed a bus for Zihua. Having heard there was a "Mexicana Commercial" shop-

ping center around, we asked to be dropped off at this Zihua version of Fred Meyers.

The trip to our new residence in Zihua went like clockwork. Our cab in Zihua dropped us at the Paraíso Real, the home of Juan (remember Juan?), who may or may not be a murderer.

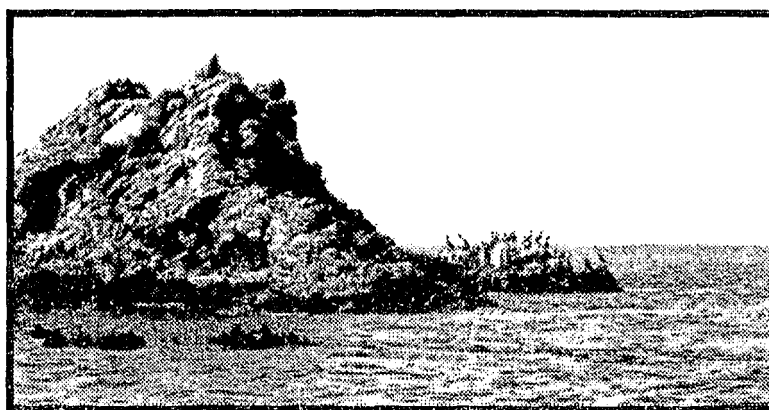
Our room, while beachfront, was a bit of a dump. I don't know which room was shown on the internet site, but it sure wasn't this one. It smelled of mildew, a ceiling fan creaked dangerously above our bed, giving the uncomfortable premonition of imminent decapitation, and there was neither a tub, nor proper shower stall, such that a shower caused a flooding of the entire bathroom. But as Gabriela (who knows most things) pointed out, it could have been much worse. And the hotel DID have crocodiles and other sorts of wildlife on the grounds.

Eventually it was time for dinner, and having heard good things from someone's personal website about a place called "La Perla," we settled there. We're guessing that those folks had been smoking crack. La Perla sucked.

The next day we signed up for a hotel snorkeling trip. Having brought my dive suit as protection against jellyfish, I asked our guide, Pepe, if the creatures were around. He assured us that there were not jellyfish, even as he was donning his OWN suit. We dove in,

and the first thing we felt was a pricking sensation. It didn't take us long to spot hundreds of the tiny little fellas, blobbing along, doing their jellyfish thing.

Saturday we hung out on the beach all day, sampling a variety of cervezas. We aren't beer connoisseurs, and decided that with enough limes squeezed in, they all tasted roughly the same. On



The ocean and beaches were vast empty spaces of beautiful colors and unique wildlife. Notice the pelicans on the rightmost rock.

our final night in Zihua, we walked around for a couple of hours. Apart from the hotel zone on Playa la Ropa, it's a very Mexican town, and that has so much to do with its appeal. The gringos seemed to keep mostly to the beach areas (and Zihua's neighboring destination, Ixtapa), and the outer city streets were filled with young guys and their girlfriends, candy and peanut sellers, whistles, shouts, and farting diesel buses.

It was with no small amount of regret that we pulled our selves away from the beach the next day and headed for the airport. Keeping in the style to which we've become accustomed, we had chosen another cheapo Travelodge (let's call it Squalor North) to overnight in on the way back. The desk clerk was one of the rudest guys we've ever met, the bathroom door wouldn't close because the bed stuck out halfway into the door path, and the advertised "continental breakfast" was a box of doughnuts. But our arrival for the next morning's flight back to Alaska changed our attitude about all that for the better. The flight was overbooked and the Alaska Airlines folks called for volunteers to give up their seats. We looked at each other for a few seconds, waved at the ticket agents, and gladly accepted our free tickets. So it wasn't too bad of a deal to end one vacation with the promise of another. We'd certainly go back to Zihua.

Photos and story by Kim "Corona" Porter and Gabriela

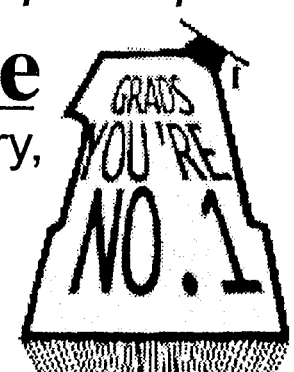
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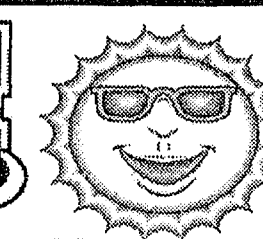
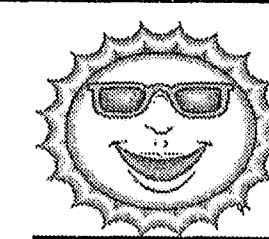
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Mexico continued from p.1

it. We were welcomed with wide smiles, open arms, and an enormous dinner. I'll never forget my first Mexican meal: seafood spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad, and root beer. I was a bit disappointed, actually. Where's the beans and rice in a homemade tortilla? I was sure there was plenty of that coming.

We teamed up with students from Kansas and Missouri and we were all up at the crack of dawn Sunday to conquer the local fishing industry. Three charter boats were waiting to take us out of San Carlos. It was a breezy, overcast morning that chilled even the thickest Alaskan blood, but it didn't dampen the excitement of bringing in the big ones. The challenge was on, our boat with the "professional Alaskan fishermen" against everyone else. Our reputation was at stake! So I took it upon myself to get things started and convinced the first fish to attach itself to my hook. A record-setting 28 fish later, our



captain and first mate cooked up our catch with homemade salsa and fresh tortillas. Not only was it a delicious meal, but it cleared my sinuses right up.

Enough messing around already, we were there to work. Monday morning we were ready to get dirty. After getting dropped at the work site and introduced to the adobe experts, we dove right in. It didn't take us long to become experts ourselves, and before we knew it we had the adobe brick factory running smooth.

Everyone had his or her own job. Water needed hauled, dirt shoveled and sifted, straw ground down and bagged, vats of mud mixed, and bricks formed. But everyone's favorite part was getting elbow deep, sometimes shoulder deep, in the mud vats so we could pick out rocks and sticks and break up dirt clumps. It was amazing how much we got accomplished in spite of the frequent water breaks and mud fights! Playing in the mud defi-

nately brought out our youthful spirits.

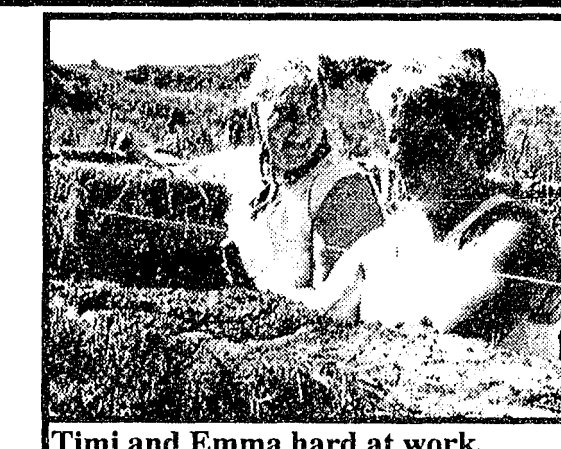
We split up in different groups a few times so a playground could get built and the two homes that were partially finished could get worked on. Our favorite thing though, was hanging out with the kids. Even though we couldn't understand each other, we could understand the mutual smiles and

laughter. They were always so happy! Watching the children absolutely glow with contentment was humbling. They have next to nothing but they couldn't ask for more.

By the end of the week, we were all ready for some

much-deserved playtime. We all envisioned siesta time on the shores of the Sea of Cortez. I wanted to dive into the waves, do some snorkeling, and seek out the perfect shells. As I strolled down the beach with some friends, we talked about the week and how we didn't want it to come to an end.

As we stood in the surf and scanned the horizon, our hearts started racing as we saw fins and tails of dolphins playing in the waves come into view. A few students started into the water as I contemplated going back for my snorkel gear and underwater camera. I decided I shouldn't take the chance of missing the dolphins completely, and headed into the water. I got ready to take a deep breath and dive into the salty waves, but at that moment, something took my breath away. In a flash, a stabbing pain ripped through my foot and stopped me in

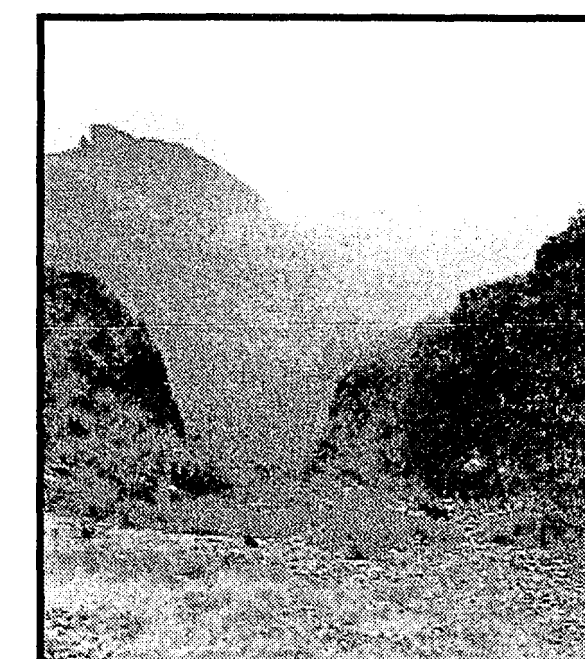


Timi and Emma hard at work.

my tracks. I believe I walked on water, as I was on the shore in three seconds flat. As I looked at my foot already swollen, bruised, and bleeding, I knew it was a little more serious than I wanted to admit. Within moments, the muscles in my foot and leg were a paralyzing cramp and I knew I had to get to the vehicles as quickly as possible.

I'm sure I was quite a sight as I speed walked down the beach as fast as my lame leg could carry me with tears streaming down my cheeks. As the muscles in my leg continued to cramp up, I imagined some terrible poison traveling to my heart and seizing it as it had my foot and leg. As me and my bare feet flew past the sign "no shirt, no shoes, no service" and into the crowded restaurant, I started feeling relief as I was surrounded by people worrying about me so I didn't have to. I could concentrate on not grinding through my teeth. Soon I started hearing the words "stingray, poison, hospital." Hospital?! I started worrying again. But as my foot was thrust into hot water, and the muscles started relaxing instantly, I knew everything would be just fine.

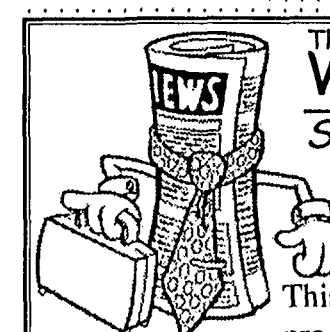
So here it is, almost two weeks after my stingray encounter, and I'm still going through the slow healing process. It hasn't been hard to keep a smile on my face though, as I reminisce about one of the best weeks of my life and think about getting ready to go again next year. Thank you Timi and Tim, our UAS advisors, who put an incredible amount of time and energy into making this trip one that none of us will ever forget.



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The Whalesong Position Announcements for Fall 2001

Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Editor

This position will provide editorial and production direction and supervise student reporters working for the campus newspaper The Whalesong.

Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Production Manager

This position will work with the Whalesong Editor, Advertising Manager and reporting staff to produce camera-ready pages for production of the student newspaper. He/She will coordinate the production schedule and proofread the final copy. The Production Manager will also be responsible for on-campus and community distribution of printed paper, and posting issues on the campus web site.

Student Assistant IV-Whalesong Advertising Manager

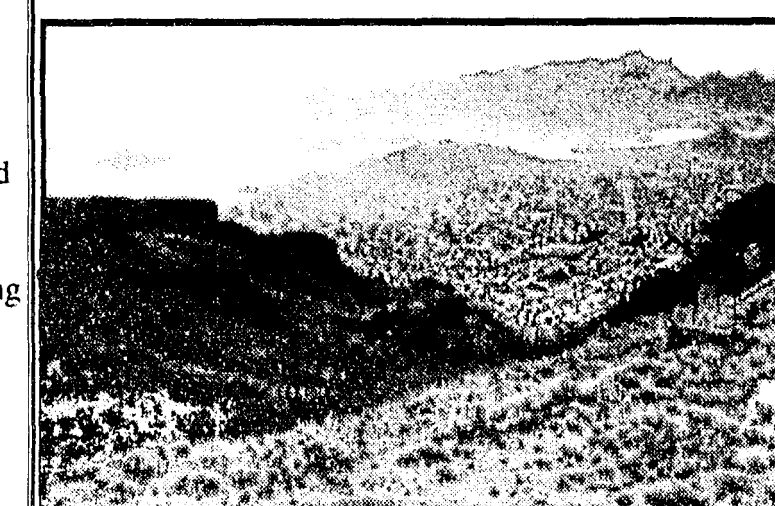
This position will act as the sales manager for advertising in the student paper. This person will solicit new advertising accounts, create camera-ready ads and provide invoices to Business Services for appropriate billing. Must be able to track accounts and produce reports showing invoice and final ad copy for audit purposes.

Don't Delay! Applications are DUE Friday, April 13th

For more information contact Kirk McAllister, Whalesong Adviser at 465-6473 or for more details on the positions go to the UAS homepage at www.uas.alaska.edu and click on Whalesong.

Text by Emma Lavender, photos courtesy of Tim's website

www.geocities.com/uasadvisors/mexico01.html



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Alternative spring break puts UAS students to work

Jamie Atkinson
Whalesong Contributor

While most students spent their spring break sunning themselves in Mexico or hanging around down South, a group of UAS students and staff went on an alternative spring break, getting down and dirty in Guaymas, Mexico building adobe houses.

Tim Schroeder (Sitka Advisor), Timi Tullis (Juneau Housing Manager), Emma (Juneau), Andrew (Sitka), and Tom (Ketchikan) joined students from Newman University and St. Louis University for a service project to help build houses for two families.

The Alaska group stayed in the Meson de Jesus, which is the Franciscan mission's soup kitchen, where they slept on cots. For four and a

half days every morning at 5:30 every-one would wake up to start building the houses. Also, every day they chose to attend a service with the local people.

Everyone would work on building the bricks that were made up

of 30-40 shovels of dirt and 3-5 gallons of water. They mixed the water and dirt together to form a thick paste and added straw and left it out to dry. Each house needed 850 of these bricks, and the students finished 800 bricks to build one of the houses, the other house just needed to be put together. In Mexico, citizens can claim land abandoned by the government. These particular houses were being built on land that was a dump. The new adobe houses were a significant upgrade compared to other houses.

Each house is 20' x 20' having a total area of 400 square feet. One house had 8 children and the other had 10 children plus the par-

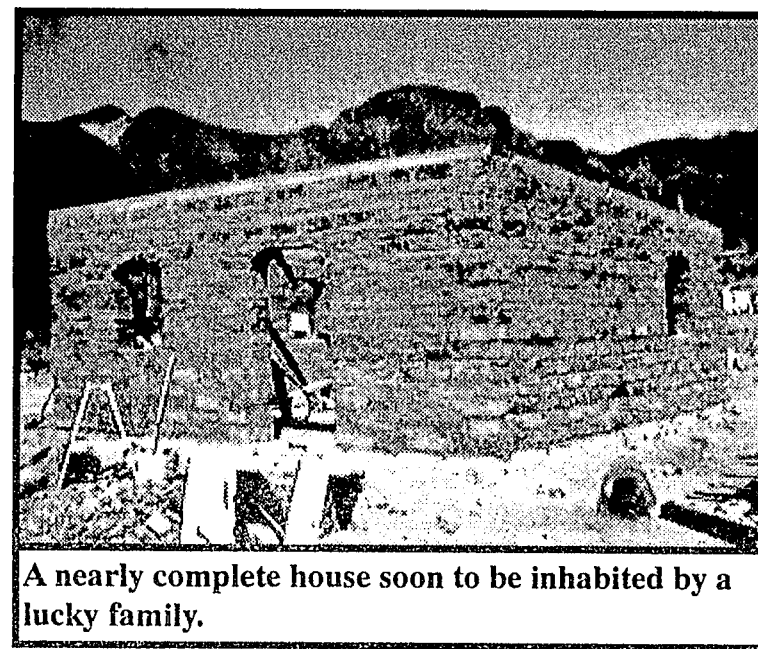
ents. The families also found some play-ground equipment that needed some welding work; they asked local people for help but it never got done. Andrew has been taking welding classes, so he helped fix the play-ground, while others helped dig holes to install it.

The group is also planning on returning to Guaymas for spring break next year. They plan to fly to Phoenix, which is 8 hours away, and driving down to Mexico, so that the trip is more cost effective. If you have any questions about this year's trip, or about joining them next year, contact Timi Tullis on the Juneau campus, or Tim Schroeder on the Sitka campus.

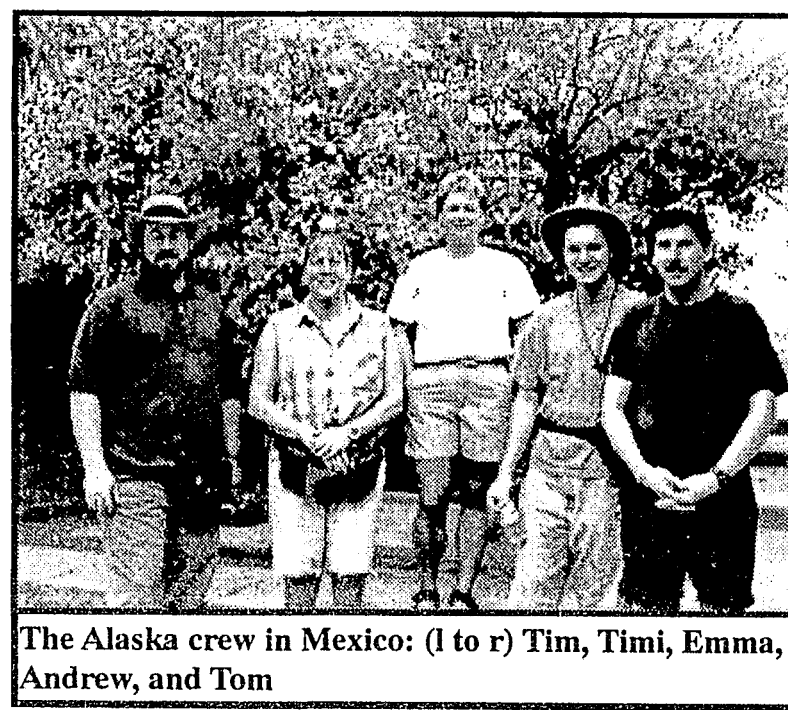
Photos courtesy of Tim's website,
www.geocities.com/uasadvistors/mexico01.html



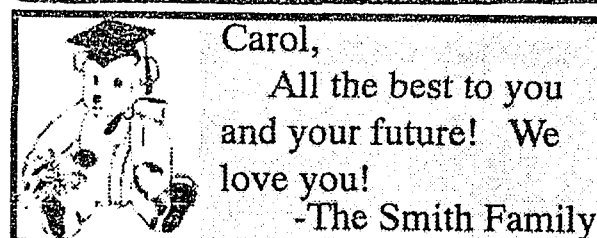
Children help in the brick-building process by searching for twigs and debris.



A nearly complete house soon to be inhabited by a lucky family.



The Alaska crew in Mexico: (l to r) Tim, Timi, Emma, Andrew, and Tom



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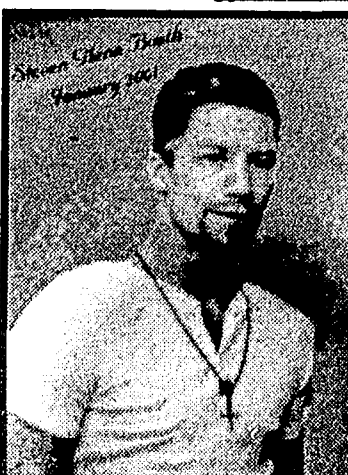
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Sports

Quick Picks

NCAA Men's Basketball Championship

Duke took down the Arizona Wildcats 82-72 in the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis Monday night. The Blue Devil's claimed their first title since 1992, and coach Mike Krzyzewski took home his 3rd National Championship title.

Orlando Brown files suit against NFL

Patrick McManamon
Knight-Ridder Tribune



PALM DESERT, Calif. - Former Browns offensive tackle Orlando Brown filed a \$200 million lawsuit against the NFL on Wednesday, claiming his career was ended by a referee's penalty flag. Brown's suit charges that the league did not properly teach and enforce the way penalty flags were weighted and thrown, and that led to an eye injury that forced the former Browns right tackle out of football.

"We are aware of the lawsuit," NFL vice president Greg Aiello said. "It was an unfortunate accident and the injury to the player was totally inadvertent."

Brown's suit was filed Wednesday in state Supreme Court in New York City by attorneys for Johnnie Cochran's law firm. It is expected to be made public at a news conference in New York on Thursday, where Cochran is expected to address the issue for the first time.

Brown was hurt in a Browns-Jaguars game on Dec. 19, 1999, when a penalty flag thrown by referee Jeff Triplette hit Brown in the right eye.

Brown went to the sideline after he was hit, then turned to return to the field. As he did, he was met by Triplette. Brown reacted by shoving Triplette to the ground.

He was criticized for pushing the referee, and suspended indefinitely by the league. But the suspension was lifted the following March, after it became apparent Brown's eye injury was serious.

"Zeus" has since been unable to resume serious exercise, because when he does he sees white flashes.

One of his attorneys, Clifford Stern, told the Associated Press that any kind of substantial contact to the head would cause "an inalterable change in his ability to see. He would go blind."

The Browns kept Brown on the roster through training camp of the 2000 season, and released him in September.

"We have not seen the lawsuit," team media relations director Todd Stewart said, "and until we do it would be inappropriate for anyone to comment."



Williams fails to fold throughout stunning comeback

Steven Wine
Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. - Venus Williams stood a single point from defeat eight times. Her game was erratic, the weather hot, the match long, and the crowd firmly in Jennifer Capriati's corner.

But Williams would not fold. The past couple of weeks she endured a lot, jeers at Indian Wells, talk of fixed matches, a debate started by her father regarding fan racism, so eight pesky match points weren't about to rattle her.

She won them all, then won the last point as well Saturday to beat Jennifer Capriati 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4) in a sloppy but scintillating final at the Ericsson Open.

Williams earned her third title at Key Biscayne, where she has won 18 consecutive matches since 1998. "I was just able to hang in there through it all, through all my tough matches, through any ridiculous comments or questions I had to face," she said.

The third-seeded Williams surmounted the controversies and survived a 2-hour, 24-minute final that was a fascinating combination of clunker and classic.

No. 4 Capriati literally missed by inches in a bid for her first title since winning the Australian Open in January. She managed to muster a smile during the trophy ceremony.

"It was a super close match," she said. "It

was too bad somebody had to lose."

Most of the cheers during the match were for Capriati, who grew up in Florida and has been a sympathetic figure since her tumultuous adolescence. But Williams had her supporters, too, and received a warm ovation when handed her trophy.



"I got some lucky points," she told the crowd, "and here I am."

Both players were lucky to reach a third set, because the first two were abysmal, as were the final statistics. There was a double-double in double faults, 16 by Capriati, 11 by Williams, and the number of unforced errors was equally staggering, 53 by Capriati, 71 by Williams.

But with the court temperature around 100 degrees, both players showed remarkable fitness and resolve. As the tension built in the third set, the quality of play improved markedly and sometimes bordered on brilliant.

Capriati had three match points serving at 5-4, then five more serving at 6-5. She made an error on seven of the eight match points, but several came at the end of furious rallies, and twice she hit shots past Williams that were long by an inch or two. On one apparent winner, a crosscourt backhand,

Capriati pumped her fist in jubilation before realizing the ball had been correctly ruled out.

She double faulted on her final match point, and Williams saved that 26-point game to make the score 6-6 and force the tiebreaker.

"I never really felt like I was going to lose," Williams said. "I wasn't nervous at all."

She took advantage of Capriati's mounting frustration and seized a 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker.

"Maybe, like, mentally I got kind of discouraged after letting so many match points go," Capriati said. "I kind of had a meltdown in the tiebreaker, I guess, maybe the first few points."

Capriati saved three match points herself to close to 6-4 in the tiebreaker, then hit a backhand into the net, and a weary, triumphant Williams smiled in relief.

Williams earned \$375,000 and strengthened her claim as the best player on the women's tour. Her ranking next week will rise from third to second for the first time, behind only Martina Hingis, whom she beat in the semifinals.



Capriati won \$195,000 and sounded eager for a rematch. The only other time she faced Williams was at Key Biscayne four years ago.

"She's definitely, like, beatable," Capriati said. "It's not like I wasn't close."

Entertainment

Get Over It is cute, no-brainer

Summer J. Dorr Murray
Whalesong Staff

First off, what is up with me seeing TEEN romantic comedies flicks every other weekend? Perhaps it's my desire to get a cheap laugh whilst reminiscing of the ole Juneau-Douglas High School halls... umm, not so much. This is definatly the last one I will pay to view.

I'm twenty and I'm realizing as I file into a dark theatre that everyone in here is 17 and under. I sink into my chair and remember why I came: I was having a "downer" day and needed a no-brainer activity.

Get Over It stars Kristen Dunst, rap singer Sisqo, Colin Hanks (son of Tom, and a regular on the WB's *Roswell*), and other up-and-coming actors. They all put a traditional performance into this interesting combination of *Grease*, *Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *There's Something About Mary*.

Plot: guy gets dumped by long-time girlfriend. She starts seeing someone new and he does anything to get her back, including joining the high school production of *Midsummer's Night Dream*. In the meantime, his boys try to persuade him to get over it.

The movie does have a couple elements that most teen flicks lack, including singing talent, off-beat humor, and creative interpretations of young love. Nonetheless, it is an overdramatized and unrealistic view of teen life. But the movie actually brightened my spirits.

Bottom line: cute, but if you don't want to put a hood on as you leave and enter, wait for the movie to arrive at Blockbuster.



Preview

Wednesday, 4th - Paul Kraft, UAS Dean of Students candidate, will be in the Lake Room from 3-4:30 (with cookies and refreshments) to meet people and answer questions.

Wednesday, 4th - Join student government! 5 Senate seats, as well as the Prez and Vice-Prez positions, are open. Packets are available from Iris in the Mourant Bldg, and are due by 8 p.m. today.

Tuesday, 10th - *Brazil*, a "surreal depiction of a future society" stifled by bureaucracy and the lone man who attempts to break free," starts today at The Back Room. Today and Thurs. 7:30, Sat. at 8:30.

Tuesday & Wednesday, 10th & 11th - Elections today!! **Get out and vote!!** Have a say in who leads UAS. Vote for next year's Senators, and student-body President and Vice-President.

Saturday, 14th - Easter Egg Hunt for children 10 and under of UAS students, faculty, and staff. The hunt begins at noon (probably in the Mourant Courtyard, but keep your eyes open for posters).

Sunday, 15th - EASTER!! Don a bunny suit, color some eggs, throw lots of that annoying fake grass around, eat chocolate til you puke, then chow down a turkey or ham while watching some goofy Easter special. Or go to church.

Horoscopes



Capricorn (December 22-January 20)

Unique social ideas or outside romantic flirtations will soon affect long-term relationships. Work hard to overcome ongoing disagreements.



Aquarius (January 21-February 19)

Over the next few days expect others to be confident, outspoken, and self-involved. Stay focused on practical solutions and watch for unusual outbursts. Be patient and refuse to react to bold public statements.



Pisces (February 20-March 20)

A recently bothersome phase of emotional avoidance in close relationships is now ending. Financial messages and new money promises will be misleading: avoid obvious risks.



Aries (March 21-April 20)

Watch for officials to introduce risky concepts or new group responsibilities. Expect loved ones to now express a need for travel, expanded social activities, or daily change.



Taurus (April 21-May 20)

Expect friends and loved ones to reveal fast revisions, late plans, or unexpected invitations. Don't postpone key decisions or necessary duties.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Expect long-term commitments to be firmly established. Business partnerships may also be accented. Remain open: new career plans are now highly rewarding.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Past romantic proposals or outdated friendships may now return. Watch loved ones closely for subtle signs of social frustration. Confused home duties may now create unnecessary tension or strained relations.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Subtle changes of power or responsibility may now strongly affect employment roles. Watch for loved ones to suggest unusual social gatherings or revised family ideas. Intimate relations will now greatly improve.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Yesterday's business contacts may prove surprisingly useful. Pay close attention to a friend or loved one who may be overly focused on recent romantic changes. Remain sensitive to the privacy of friends and relatives.



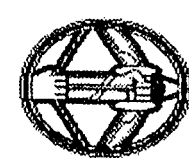
Libra (September 23-October 23)

Recently revised partnerships or assignments will now produce results. Expect unusual announcements and an obvious display of confidence from both colleagues and friends.



Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

This is a powerful time for bringing much needed change to your long-term work ambitions. A close friend or new lover may soon reveal unusual family obligations, social doubts or past commitments.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Watch for loved ones to propose new money projects, lifestyles, or shared resources. Loved ones may now be overly optimistic or easily influenced by friends. Don't shy away from sincere and passionate invitations.



Dr. Love and Deb Auchery

Dear Doc and Deb:

While on spring break I made out with a marine. He was supposed to leave town the next day but changed his ticket to stay another night. Am I in any way obligated to sleep with him?

Doc Says:

NO! If all a guy has to do to get laid is stay an extra night in town then this world would be full of A.W.O.L. soldiers. He may *think* that he's getting laid but he will need to do more than that. His ambitions are high but I hope you made the right choice.

Deb Says:

Of course you're obligated! What are you thinking?! Geesh, he stayed a whole extra day, come on now. (This was a stupid question, if you can't figure this out on your own than you should NOT be in college.)

Dear Doc and Deb:

I kissed some guy somewhat passionately; I did it more for the attention than anything. I was trying to make someone else jealous. Now this guy is saying that we are together.

What do I do?

Doc Says:

I guess you're going to have to break up with him. Who were you trying to make jealous? You should not play with people's emotions like that. Next time you kiss someone I hope you do it for your pleasure rather than to get a rise out of someone.

Deb Says:

Tell him to piss off (with an English accent) and then kiss the guy you were trying to make jealous.

Dear Doc and Deb:

When I went home for spring break I was making out with an old fling in the back of his car. I was about to end the whole thing when I noticed how nice the car was. It had leather seats, power everything, and a system that rocked.

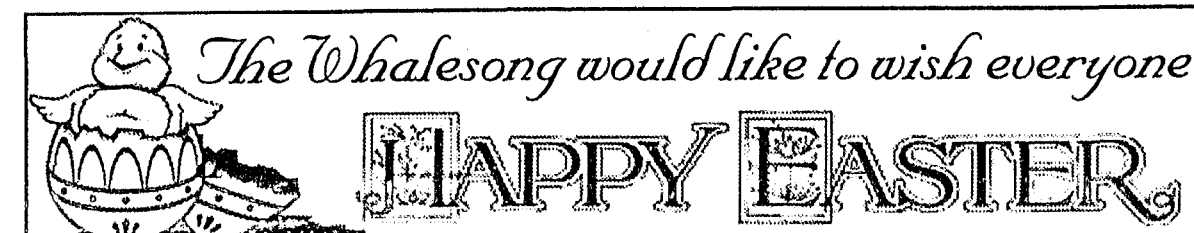
Is this superficial of me?

Doc Says:

Yes! I cannot believe you; I always expected more out of you than this. It better have been a really nice car. I hope he was not playing rap on that rocking system. Well I hope you enjoyed your ride.

Deb Says:

If it was just a fleeting indulgence with an old fling and you enjoyed yourself who cares if you are superficial? After all, isn't the brief affair d'amour the ultimate in shallowness anyway? Sometimes you just gotta do what you gotta do.



Rush and Molloy: Hollywood insider gossip

George Rush and Joanna Molloy
Tribune Media Services

WHEN PUFFY MET J.L.O., THE SEQUEL

Even a roomful of movie stars on Oscar night was riveted by the latest episode of "Puffy and J.Lo."

The scene was the Vanity Fair party at Morton's. Combs, who some believe is still carrying a torch for Lopez, was the first to arrive. After checking his posse at the door, the rap mogul floated through the party in a cream-colored three-piece suit. One after another, guests congratulated him on his recent acquittal on weapons and bribery charges.

Actor Vince Vaughn, designers Tom Ford and Stella McCartney, even Nancy Reagan's pal Betsy Bloomingdale gave him a hug or a handshake. "I came out to get away from New York," Combs told us. "I came to sell the house I have here and to do some business. That's the only reason."

And yet you had to figure that somewhere in the back of his mind he was wondering, "Will Jennifer show up?"

It was close to midnight when Lopez and her entourage arrived from the Shrine Auditorium. She was wearing that dress, the Chanel number that would have won any wet T-shirt contest. At her side was Cris Judd, the stocky dancer who has become her boyfriend.

Someone told them Puffy was about. Looking around, they waded through the crowd, holding tightly to one another's hands. For a while, it seemed as though Combs may have left. Then, there he was, striding toward them. People watched as he kissed his ex on the cheek. They shared a hug. Combs also greeted Judd, who looked uncomfortable.

After a couple of minutes of conversation, Puff took his leave. "I just wanted to be a gentleman and clear the air," he said afterward, sipping a glass of Veuve Clicquot.

While a source says Combs was distraught to see his beloved with Judd, the man himself vouched, "Everything is fine."

PAIRING OFF, OR NOT

Tom Cruise was spared an awkward encounter with Nicole Kidman. We hear that his estranged wife agreed to lie low while Cruise, the most casually dressed Oscar presenter who avoided red-carpet interrogations, hit the town.

Nic Cage and sometime squeeze Penelope Cruz were in separate orbits at the Vanity Fair party, as were Winona Ryder and ex-beau Matt Damon.

Cruz and Damon, rumored to have saddled up together during the making of "All the Pretty Horses," talked. But Damon seemed more interested in nuzzling a dark-haired beauty named Odessa. Damon's bud Ben Affleck was seen snuggling up with another brunette in a backless dress.

Helen Hunt, split from Hank Azaria, stuck close to Melissa Etheridge. Hunt's friend Kevin Spacey was on his own.

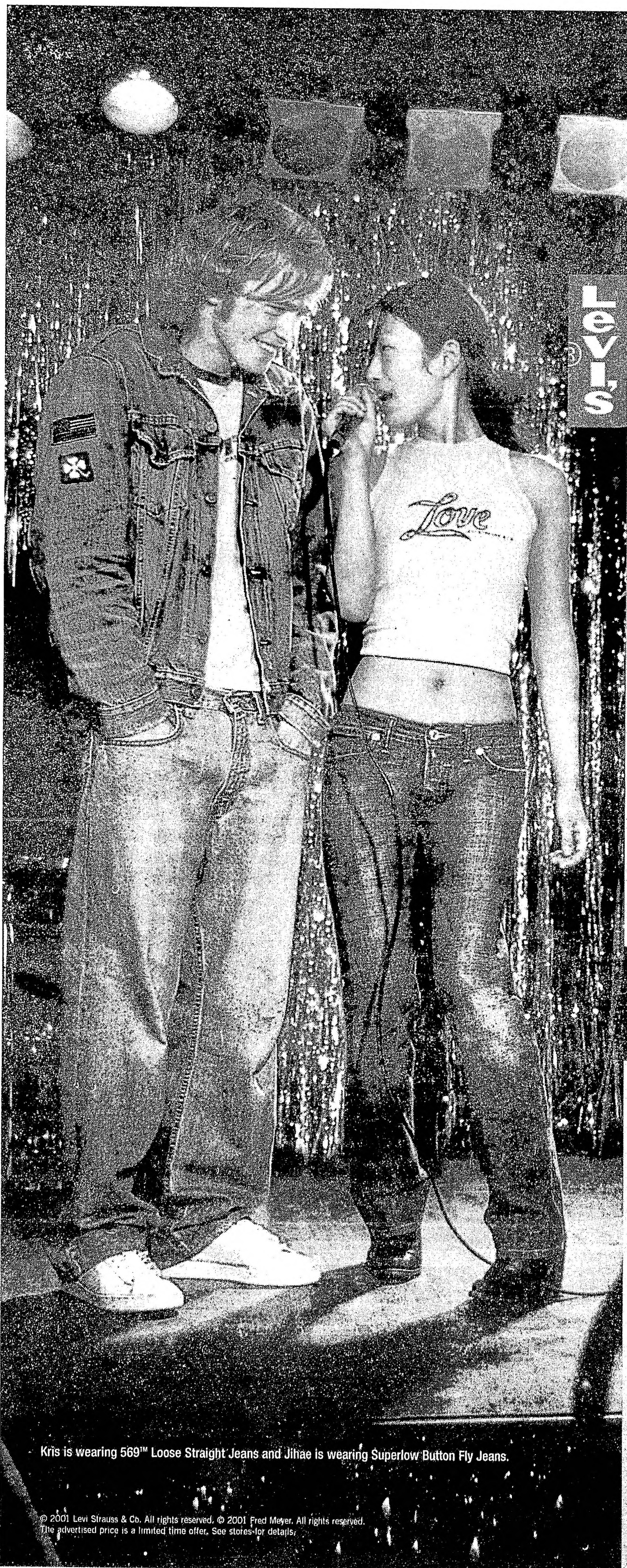
OSCAR-WINNERS' PERKS

Julia Roberts felt nature's call in an urgent way by the time she made it to the Vanity Fair party after the Governor's Ball. Unable to wait in the long line for the ladies' room, she dashed instead into the men's room. None of the guys complained.

Roberts told us that, before her emotional acceptance speech, "People kept telling me to take deep breaths and relax. Well, I tried." The tanned, Valentino-sheathed Pretty Woman said she was just back from a "south of the border" vacation with boyfriend Benjamin Bratt, who shaved off his goatee. "I think we need another vacation," she said.

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